

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, July 16. to Saturday, July 18. 1713.

*The Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce, &c. put to Silence.**The People they had deluded begin to awake, and are amazed at the Discoveries of Matters of Fact.**The Mystery of first promoting the Bill for establishing and explaining the Treaty, and then opposing it, and addressing the Queen to explain it, enquired into.**The true Explanation both of the Treaty it self, and of the Meaning of those who oppos'd it.*

SO much having been said of our Loss by the Want of the Trade to France, the Effect of it begins to appear: The Opposers hereof have been put to Silence, and more especially have been driven from their former Hold; (Viz.) the popular Delusions; by which they perswaded the Common People to believe, that all Commerce to France must be to our Loss, and that the French are the only Gainers.

The People, on the other hand, finding their Deluders thus push'd to the Wall, seem amazed, and like Men waken'd out of a Dream; insomuch, that when we talk of a Trade to France, and a Tariff in France, they innocently return upon us, **TARIFF! WHAT'S THAT?** What do you mean by a Trade to France? Nay, such has been the highth of the Fraud, that the poor People have been made to believe in the gross, that we only bought vast Quantities of Goods from France, such as Wines, Brandy, Silk, Linen and Paper, but that we sent nothing thither; and when they are told of the French taking sixteen or seventeen thousand Pieces of Kerfies, and twenty or five and twenty thousand Pieces of Serges and Perpetuana's, with five thousand Pieces of Spanish Cloths, ten thousand Pieces of Stuffs, and the like in proportion of all our Woollen Goods, and these all in one Year; they hold up their Hands and their Eyes and ask us with wonder, what it is we talk of? *Why, say they, do we use to send any Woollen Manufactures to France!*

Those People who, for the promoting their other evil Designs, have found it useful to them to keep the honest Manufacturers thus in the dark, have no way

then left to them, but to spend their Rage against this Paper, telling the poor People it is *All Lyes*, and that they ought not to read it.

Yet it is to be remark'd, and that too with some particular Satisfaction, that since the *MERCATOR* gave these People a modest Challenge to disprove or detect the least Falshity in any one thing alledged on this side, as per the *MERCATOR*, No. 18. they have abated much in that Assurance with which they were wont to abuse and delude the People; and they have left off saying so frequently, it is **ALL LYES**. As this is a great Testimony of the Obedience paid to Truth, even by those Enemies, who carry Things up to the highest Rancour by Prepossession of Malice and Party-Rage, so it gives us some hopes, that the worst of Men may, by the Power of Reason and Truth, be brought to some Convictions, and at least to give over the Attempt of deluding the People.

To encourage them then, while they are in so fair a way to come to themselves, and let them see, that the Case of our Trade is so plain, that it cannot be possible for them to carry on their Design of keeping the People ignorant to any farther Length; that Truth is so much against them, that it must necessarily open the Eyes of the People, if it may but be set in a true Light before them; the *MERCATOR* shall continue to lay before the British Manufacturers, Fish-Merchants, and other Traders to France, an Account of what the French Trade was, and what, by the unfortunate Step lately taken, it now is; by which they may rightly judge, what they might have gain'd, and what now they lose.

The present Misfortune of the Trade with France lies here, that we cannot remain as we were in the time of the War: Then the Trade with France was entirely put to a stop; tho' there was no particular Prohibition, yet the Ships or Goods from France were not Enterable, being stop'd by the general Interruption of Commerce. But this is not the Case now.

Now the Trade being laid open in general by a Peace, but subject to the particular Prohibitory Laws of either Kingdom; the Consequence is fatal to us, in that we may now Trade FROM France, but cannot Trade TO France. To this the Opposers eagerly and very warmly reply to us with this Question, WHY have ye made such a Peace then?

The Answer is much more pungent against them, (viz.) NAY; But why have you Rejected the Treaty of Commerce? The State of the Question is clearly laid down thus; The Queen, when the Peace of Europe was in Agitation, forgot not the great and especial Blessing of Trade, which was to attend it, among her own People; and therefore join'd to it a Treaty of Commerce: And that such a Treaty, and so qualified for the Encouraging Manufactures, and Encreasing the Wealth of her People, as none of her Ancestors ever obtained the like; none of them ever made a Treaty of Commerce so much to Britain's Advantage: But Prejudices and Party prevailing, and a Sett of People applying themselves among us to oppose every thing, that may do the Nation good; and keep us under Difficulties, that it may Eclipse the Management of those, who they particularly make their Attacks upon, and cover the Conduct of those, who they would Defend: This has prevailed so far, as to make us separate, what ought not to be put asunder; and take the Treaty of Peace without the Treaty of Commerce; by which, as above, the State of Trade is quite altered; for now the French Goods will come in here, and the British Goods not go in there: BEFORE, as they took nothing of us, so we took nothing of them: But now the Case is quite altered, their Goods will come in among us, many Circumstances of our Trade join to have it so; we will have Wines and Brandy, what Price soever we pay for them; nay, the higher the Price is, or may be, the fonder some of our People are of having them: Farther, our Colonies and Plantations will have Wines and Brandies cheap and easie, the Duty being drawn back, and will have French Linens, French Paper, French Silks, &c. all the additional Duties being drawn back by Certificate; and all this while, we having no liberty of Importations into France, what shall we pay for all these Goods with, and how shall we Ballance the Trade?

THOSE Gentlemen, who were first for promoting a Bill to Establish and Explain the Treaty of Commerce, and afterwards VOTING against it, and THEN Addressing her Majesty, to put it into a Method of being Establish'd and Explain'd, need to go no farther for an Explanation of it, than to this one Circumstance, (viz.) That all our English Manufactures, which are now Prohibited in France, and all our Fish, and other Goods, which are charged in France with Duties equal

to a Prohibition, should now be admitted upon very low and reasonable Duties; whereby the British Trade should be made able to answer its own Imports, pay for the Goods we buy in France, by Manufactures of our own Workmanship, or Goods of our own Growth or Importation, and have a Ballance yearly due to us in Money.

This is the brief Explanation of the Treaty: No doubt those Gentlemen, who thought fit to make an Address of Thanks to her Majesty for the Treaty, understood the meaning of it very well. The *MERCATOR* can never be of the Opinion, as some would suggest, that the said Address should be a Satyr upon the Makers of it, and pretend to thank her Majesty for a thing, that wanted Explanation.

Had the Treaty been made Effectual, the Trade itself would ere now have Explain'd it; and since the Treaty is not made Effectual, the want of that Trade, and the loss of the British Commerce, by Importing FROM a Country, TO which we can have no Export, is an Explanation sufficient, as to some of those, who appeared against the Bill. But the true Explanation of these Measures, as to others, is this, That a Friendship was to be cultivated and kept up with our Dutch Neighbours for Ends of another kind; by transferring the whole Advantages of our Trade into their Hands, and securing them in the Possession, by excluding our selves; as appears by Accounts, which come every Post from France; where their Ports are now full of Dutch Ships, unloading vast Quantities of East-India and West-India Goods; nay, even English Manufactures, under the cover of being of the Dutch Workmanship; all which Trade had been ours, if this Contrivance had not taken Effect. This is an Explanation, which Great-Britain will feel sensibly enough, to prevent their giving any Thanks to those, who have been the Occasion of it.

It is to be observed, that all the while we speak to these People of our Exportations to France, and the great Quantities of Goods, Manufactures, and other things, which we should send every Year into France, they make very light of it, and answer, That our Exportations to France are very trivial, and amount to no considerable Sum; and to make this appear, they produce their old Deceitful thing, call'd, A Scheme, the same mentioned so often in this Paper, in which they make all the Exportations to France amount to a small Matter; and on the contrary, raise our Importations from France to an immense Sum.

Now as the Fraud of this Dealing has been sufficiently Exposed, and that SCHEME will hardly pass any longer with Men of Sense for an Authentick Voucher, no not among themselves; so the next *MERCATOR* shall give a short View of some of our Exportations to France that are real, and such as are attested from the Custom-House Books; and such as have been lately laid before both Houses of Parliament, by the Commissioners of the Customs; that so the whole Nation may see, what a Trade they are shut out from, and what a Trade her Majesty had helped them to, if they had not rejected it themselves.



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